

CHAPTER 6

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS LIAISON OFFICER PROGRAM

A. GENERAL

1. This chapter establishes doctrinal procedures necessary for implementation of the EPLO program to provide **MSCA** under DoD 3025.1 (reference (c)). It provides for: establishment of EPLO teams at the ten FEMA Regions and at the National Guard State Area Commands, assigns responsibilities throughout the DoD structure, and lists the duties of the EPLO team members. It sets forth general policies to guide EPLOS in their duties, and prescribes general training guidance. The EPLO program represents an extension of the peacetime and wartime planning and response functions of CINCUSACOM and USCINCPACOM.

2. The EPLO program refers to all DoD personnel serving with the military and civilian headquarters having primary planning, coordination, and **execution** responsibilities under DoD Directive 3025.1 (reference (c)). The CINC establishes EPLO authority during Presidential disaster declarations (or immediately prior to declaration). EPLO personnel serving with a FEMA Region, or a State plan for military participation in civil emergency operations, present DoD claims for resources, and process and evaluate civil requests for **MSCA**. EPLOS, at the discretion of the **CINC**, can interface with the regional structure for planning and coordination, and may be located at or operate from FEMA National headquarters, FEMA Regional headquarters, **CINC**, **FORSCOM**, **CONUSA**, **STARC**, or **DCE**.

3. Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer or "EPLO" is a generic term used to refer collectively to Service and other DoD Agency personnel who coordinate military assistance to other Federal Agencies and State governments under an **ALL** HAZARDS disaster environment. These positions are established to: coordinate the military response to ALL HAZARDS, coordinate provision of resources as required, maintain effective communication between the DoD components, the Department of Defense and other Federal and/or State governmental agencies, and promote mutual understanding among **various organizations** tasked with providing and coordinating emergency support functions in civil emergency situations. The EPLO title was adopted to eliminate confusion concerning the scope of support available through the military system, to emphasize liaison responsibilities, and to reflect the expanded role of the EPLO.

4. EPLO positions may be filled by Reservists, full time civilians, or active duty military, as deemed appropriate by the parent organization. Individuals filling EPLO positions must be knowledgeable not only of parent organization capabilities and

mechanisms for providing emergency support but DoD MSCA capabilities and support mechanisms as well.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Commanders in Chief, USACOM and USPACOM

a. Establish an EPLO program for assigned AOR to facilitate peacetime and wartime planning and coordination between assigned Components and Federal and/or State Agencies aligned within the Federal regions.

b. Exercise OPCON of EPLOS during MSCA disaster operations and approve activation as required in support, of Presidential Disaster Declaration or National Security Emergencies.

c. Establish a single point of contact for the EPLO program to include activation during, or immediately prior to, a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

d. In coordination with the Services and Defense Agencies, develop training standards for the EPLOS. The Services will then train to standard. At a minimum includes the National Security Emergency Preparedness course.

e. In coordination with the Services and Defense Agencies, develop an exercise program that at a minimum includes team building activities and exchange of service capabilities applicable to domestic disaster response.

f. Provide operational guidance for and coordinate DoD component regional planning.

g. Ensure planning is conducted for EPLO employment in MSCA .

h. Designate Principal EPLO for each FEMA Region and each State (Service non-specific) .

i. USCINCPACOM should establish the necessary EPLO structure that allows coverage of the assigned AOR to include designating a Principal EPLO. As a minimum, EPLO elements should be established for Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and United States possessions and territories.

2. Secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force; Director, Defense Logistics Agency; Director Defense Information Systems Agency; Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

a. Establish a single point of contact for administrative support (mandays, orders, funding, etc.) of the

EPLO program.

b. Upon request from the appropriate **CINC**, during or immediately prior to a Presidential Disaster Declaration, activate requested EPLOS.

c. Select EPLO personnel and take necessary action to assign personnel to the appropriate headquarters.

d. Ensure that EPLO personnel possess the correct skills to support MSCA operations.

e. In coordination with the CINC and Defense Agencies, develop a training program that ensures EPLOS are fully knowledgeable of MSCA responsibilities and DoD and Service capabilities.

C. TRAINING. Training is a coordinated Service and command responsibility. A concerted effort should be made to ensure that liaison personnel receive adequate time and funding to attend appropriate courses, such as the NSEP Course, DCO course, and FEMA FRP course (when available) as soon as practical in their assignment.

D. EPLOS AT FEMA REGIONS AND STATES

1. Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers at the FEMA Regions. EPLOS assigned (Navy and Air Force) or accredited (Army) to **FEMA** Regions are nominally organized into teams to provide a composite of Service and Defense Agency technical skills. Their effort is directed at planning and coordinating MSCA activities. EPLOS attend Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) meetings and participate in training and exercises with the FEMA Region. A key to the effectiveness of the EPLO team is positive interaction between the FEMA Region and the Service or Agency representatives on the team.

a. Principal EPLO responsibilities

(1) Provide guidance for the EPLO team.

(2) Serve as liaison between CONUSA and the FEMA Region.

(3) Attend RISC, ERT, and EMT training and meetings and serve as the principal DoD representative to the EMT.

(4) Coordinate with the RISC, ERT, and EMT at the region to ensure that DoD considerations are represented in RRP, FRP, and NSEP plans and directives.

(5) Participate in ALL HAZARDS training and the

planning and execution of RRP, FRP, or NSEP exercises.

(6) Request additional personnel with functional experience to supplement the FEMA Region EPLO team when operational requirements dictate. All requests will be directed to CINCUSACOM or USCINCPACOM through USARPAC or CONUSA.

(7) Validate requests from the civil sector for MSCA and coordinate the allocation of DoD resources when authorized by the CONUSA.

(8) Coordinate military requests for civil and private assistance and resources with the FEMA Region and inform the CONUSA of the resulting claimancy decisions.

(9) Report information gained from FEMA reports to CONUSA on the effects of any resource crisis on military operations.

(10) Designate a member of the team as the alternate principal EPLO.

(11) Ensure that all members of the EPLO team have a current SECRET security clearance and coordinate the acquisition of TOP SECRET clearances for at least half the team.

(12) Assist the CINC, Services, and Defense Agencies to facilitate EPLO team participation in training and exercises.

b. Duties Common to All EPLO Team Members

(1) Advise the Principal EPLO on mission requirements and other essential activities relating to their Service or Agency.

(2) Be familiar with the mission and organization of other Regional Federal Agencies in the FRP and the general capabilities and priorities for military support that could be required of respective forces within the Federal Region.

(3) Be familiar with individual Service or Agency data bases on regional resources and inform the Principal EPLO of any resource crisis that will effect emergency preparedness.

(4) Be knowledgeable of the organizations, missions, and functions of the DoD Component they represent.

(5) Advise Principal and Regional Planning Agents of planned activities for military support to civil authorities in the area of responsibility.

(6) Participate, as funding allows, in RISC, ERT,

and EMT training at the region.

(7) Participate, as funding allows, in RISC meetings.

(8) Participate, as funding allows, in planning and execution of RRP, FRP, and NSEP exercises.

(9) Be familiar with DoD responsibilities in the FRP .

(10) Be familiar with the RPA, FORSCOM or USARPAC domestic emergency plans and procedures.

2. Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers at the States
Each of the Services designates a senior (Army, and Air Force Colonel or Navy Captain) reserve officer to serve as liaison to each State Adjutant General or State Area of Command (**STARC**) headquarters. They represent a support interface and serve as a conduit between their Component Service commanders and the State authorities with the primary responsibility for planning, coordinating, and executing the various civil disaster contingency plans under ALL HAZARDS. During Presidentially declared disasters or emergencies these liaison officers, under OPCON to the **CINC**, may support the DCO by providing liaison between the DCE and the ARNG or the State emergency operations center.